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Dear Ms McCartney,

Confronting Child Sexual Exploitation in London

Thank you for your letter, dated 25th March 2015, enclosing a copy of the Police and Crime Committee's recent report "Confronting Child Sexual Exploitation in London".

The report makes a series of recommendations that are relevant to all partners with responsibilities for safeguarding children from Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE). Specifically, recommendation number six is directed at the MPS:

The Met and MOPAC must work with the London Safeguarding Children Board to establish an agreed and consistent dataset across London.

I am pleased to report that the MPS have made significant progress with regard to this recommendation, having attended a meeting with London Councils, MOPAC and London Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) representatives on 28th April 2015. As a consequence of this meeting, a dataset was compiled, which consists of the following information, measured across each London borough:

- Number of CSE cases reported on MPS system.
- Number of recorded crimes relating to CSE.
- Number of CSE Prevention Orders.
- Crimes detected by charge.
- Other disruptions/intervention.
- Hot spotting (where victims reside).

Measurement of the data will occur on a quarterly basis, with the exception of Hot Spotting, which will be measured annually.

With regards the other recommendations, I am pleased to update you on our progress to date:

Effective Monitoring, oversight and regular review of CSE strategies

Daily monitoring of all CSE referrals is undertaken by the MPS Sexual Exploitation Team. This ensures that the appropriate category has been assigned to the referral and the appropriate intervention/disruption takes place to protect children and young persons from CSE. Oversight and regular review of CSE strategies and procedures are conducted by the MPS CSE Governance Group, led by the Commander responsible for Specialist Crime Investigations. An example of this was the 12 month review of the London CSE Operating Protocol. The revised version, after consultation with partners, was launched in March 2015.

Well-defined links between CSE and other safeguarding strategies

All CSE investigations now adhere to The London Safeguarding Procedures.

Ensure a structure is in place to share information and map CSE on a local and regional basis – including an agreed and consistent dataset across London

The introduction of Multi-Agency Sexual Exploitation (MASE) meetings in all 32 London Boroughs mandates attendance from statutory and non-statutory partners working with vulnerable children.

The monthly MASE meeting provides the framework to allow regular information sharing and action planning to tackle child sexual exploitation. The meeting discusses referrals of concern, which have been received by the agencies at the meeting. Agencies not represented at the meeting may be required to submit information to the meeting in relevant cases.

Each referral is discussed at the meeting and the Chair will check progress and ensure that an action plan has been developed. The intelligence and information shared at the meeting will be recorded on police systems and also on the social service systems should the case be open to them. This will allow an analyst to identify themes, patterns and trends emerging from MASE meetings in relation to CSE. This may include the identification of serial perpetrators and the involvement of gangs/groups or premises/locations linked to CSE. Analysis developed as a result of this will be brought back to subsequent meetings and action plans developed.

A mechanism to evaluate the impact of training and identify and respond to training needs, the following initiatives have been undertaken

In March 2015, the Prime Minister announced that CSE is now a national threat. Therefore, it is vital all agencies provide CSE Awareness training for their staff.

It is now mandatory for all front-line officers to view two CSE awareness videos. The first outlines the CSE warning signs. The second shows a victim from the recent CSE incidents in Oxford. The victim describes how she was dealt with by the police at the time she was being sexually exploited. This has been impactful, reminding officers to be aware of the warning signs. A follow up one hour presentation was given, which covered CSE warning signs and explained officers' roles and responsibilities when CSE is suspected.

CSE awareness training has also been delivered to senior police leadership teams within the MPS & City of London Police, including a presentation of the 'Chelsea's Choice' production.

CSE Awareness training (Operation Makesafe) has been delivered to hoteliers, mini cab companies and representatives from the night-time community, e.g. licensed premises and café owners, which has directly resulted in identifying victims and perpetrators involved in CSE. Multi-agency training has been coordinated via London's 32 LSCB's and training has been delivered to social workers, health workers, pharmacists and teachers.

Since the training, we have evaluated the effectiveness and impact using the following mechanisms:

- Increase in referrals, particularly since the launch of Op Makesafe.
- Over 900 flags entered onto the Police National Computer for those at risk of CSE and those who are suspected perpetrators.
- Over 250 prevention orders served against CSE perpetrators.
- 77 offenders charged with criminal offences linked to child sexual exploitation.

A forum in place to engage with children and young people affected by CSE

The MPS engage with children and young people through the Barnardos Survivors Group. This group provides useful feedback, which was included within the revised London CSE Operating Protocol.

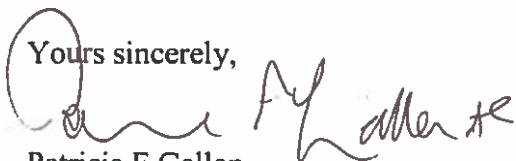
Encouraging victims to engage is a key element in successfully reducing and eliminating CSE. The young people, who participate within the group, had previously been victims of abuse and exploitation themselves. The benefits to the MPS, in both the long and short term, are improved awareness of victim related issues; opportunities to capture and disseminate learning across the organisation along with increased victim and public confidence in the MPS' in combating CSE. The participants benefit from having a platform to share their concerns and experiences whilst being listened to. They also have direct engagement with the MPS in reviewing and implementing CSE strategies, providing an opportunity to develop experience and awareness of topical and informative subjects that can be used as a basis for personal and professional development.

The MPS continues to work with the Chair of the London Safeguarding Child Board to provide a consistent approach across London to dealing with vulnerabilities that can be a cause of CSE. It is encouraging that all 32 Boroughs have signed up to the London CSE Operating Protocol. Consistency of approach is measured through a monthly dataset, provided to all MASE leads and LSCB's. This is underpinned through the attendance of a Detective Inspector at the Regional Borough Crime-fighter Meetings.

Along with all of our partners, the MPS is committed to tackling Child Sexual Exploitation. We will continue to implement and develop the recommendations within the Police and Crime Committee report along with the recommendations from the Dame Elish Angiolini report.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you wish to discuss any of these matters.

Yours sincerely,



Patricia F Gallan
Assistant Commissioner
Specialist Crime & Operations